Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in this application:

Claim 1 (canceled).

Claim 2 (currently amended): ~~The method of claim 1,~~ A method of determining authenticity of a license associated with a protectable content, the method comprising:

accessing a license profile associated with the protectable content, the license profile identifying attributes affecting at least one operation of the protectable content;

accessing a content identifier representing the protectable content, wherein the protectable content corresponds to a software element associated with a license;

computing a license identifier based, at least in part, on the accessed license profile and the accessed content identifier, the computed license identifier comprising information concerning the license associated with the protectable content;

storing the license identifier;

transmitting the license identifier over a network for subsequent distribution with the protectable content;

receiving a request message over a network to authenticate the license identifier; and

comparing the received license identifier with a corresponding stored license identifier to determine the authenticity of the license identifier.

Claim 3 (original): The method of claim 2, wherein the software element is compliant with an open source definition.

Claim 4 (currently amended): The method of claim 2, wherein the attributes correspond to at least one of a software code format, a software naming convention, a software code annotation, a warranty, a ~~reverseengineering~~reverse-engineering activity, a patent litigation activity, a standards body, a violation of intellectual property rights, and a textual description of at least one aspect of the protectable content.

Claim 5 (currently amended):   ~~The method of claim 1,~~ A method of determining authenticity of a license associated with a protectable content, the method comprising:

accessing a license profile associated with the protectable content, the license profile identifying attributes affecting at least one operation of the protectable content;

accessing a content identifier representing the protectable content, wherein the protectable content corresponds to at least one of a multimedia presentation, a video segment, an audio segment, a textual representation, a work of art, a visual representation, a technological know-how, a business know-how, and a contract right.~~-~~ associated with a license;

computing a license identifier based, at least in part, on the accessed license profile and the accessed content identifier, the computed license identifier comprising information concerning the license associated with the protectable content;

storing the license identifier;

transmitting the license identifier over a network for subsequent distribution with the protectable content;

receiving a request message over a network to authenticate the license identifier ; and

comparing the received license identifier with a corresponding stored license identifier to authenticate of the license identifier.

Claims 6–27 (cancelled).

Claim 28 (new): The method of claim 2 further comprising transmitting a reply message concerning the authenticity of the license.